





# Finals rating rising Court turns down Eala plea

THE PHILIPPINE

Basketball Association (PBA) has been receiving tremendous support not only at the arenas but on the Internet, television and radio.

ABC-5 continues to be the most popular of all sports channels, with its coverage of the PBA Finals. The network has been giving a lot of airtime to the PBA Finals, which is the most popular sports event in the Philippines.

The ratings of the PBA Finals, which has been airing since 1990, reached its peak in Game 5 of the Finals, which was watched by 38.2 percent of the audience, according to Nielsen. Game 5 is the most watched game in the series, which has been airing at an average rating of 13.6 percent every game.

## Top rating

The rising popularity of the PBA Finals has also helped the television ratings during the PBA Finals. The PBA Finals has been the most watched sports event in the Philippines since the 1990s.

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Aljo Tugue has been looking forward to playing again.

By Jane Mearns

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well as his compliance with the requirements for reinstatement by the PBA board.

"Now that the court has dismissed the PBA board's challenge, Eala is free to play again," said Tejada.

Eala clarified, however, that the league would still go through its own legal process since it involves a copy of the board decision.

"We have not to receive a copy of the decision, thus we do not need probably the approval of the board of appeals," he said.

"Once we receive a copy of the decision, we will study it and the previous court order and try to relate those with our own rules on reinstatement."

"There are no more probable things that we will do but I cannot make a comment on the same until we receive a copy of the decision."

Franchisee and owner of the PBA team, Eala, has been looking forward to playing again since he was suspended from the league in 2001.

"I have not been approved by the PBA board for reinstatement," he said.

The league of PBA has also challenged the new PBA eligibility requirements before the court.



WHAT'S INSIDE





# Palace itemizes how Marcos loot was spent

**By J. Edgar**  
Mallor had already been "pre-empted" for "comprehensive" agencies before President Marcos, who left the country and returned with QJW support.

## Balance of P9.7B

It would P9.7 billion had been in the account of the Marcos family in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

## Non-payment of P9.7B

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December in the form of a law to be passed by Congress. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

## Congress to divide

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## Don't know who

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to approximately the P10 billion. That's the idea," Mr. Arroyo said. The President also wanted to ensure that the account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

## It's not in the budget

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## Account earnings

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## Balance victims needs

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ing the did not break any law in spending the Marcos funds. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

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Arroyo explained that the right to sue victims cannot be compromised because Congress cannot pass laws providing for the return of indemnification.

## Social Justice

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## 'Flirting 101,' etc. seek ...

This is just one of the relationship advice on offer before Valentine's Day. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

"It doesn't mean to commit, not a guarantee," writes the author. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States. The account was supposed to be a prepared bill to compensate the Marcos family rights in the United States.

## Learning from fish

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## Man-catching program

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## Queen's warm wishes

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## Highly unorthodox

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## Low conquerors all

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## Wedding plans

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## Correction

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## Mixed feelings

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## Also figures

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# ATTENTION

## SUPPLIERS OF GOODS & SERVICES

### to the GOVERNMENT

**You are INVITED to ATTEND the PUBLIC HEARING on the PROPOSED Revenue Regulation on E.O.398**

**(Directing Timely and Complete Payment of Taxes as a Precondition for Entering into and as a continuing obligation in contracts with the government, its departments, agencies and instrumentalities)**

February 14, 2005  
2:00-5:00 p.m.  
BIR National Office  
National Training Center  
BIR Compound  
Agham Rd., Diliman,  
Quezon City

Visit [www.bir.gov.ph](http://www.bir.gov.ph) for the Draft of the Proposed Revenue Regulation



**Queen's warm wishes**  
In a statement, Queen Elizabeth said, "The Queen and Prince Philip, and I are very happy that the Queen of Wales and HRH, Prince Charles, are in Manila. We have given them our warmest wishes for their future reigns."

**Highly unorthodox**  
The last wedding ceremony held in the United Kingdom was a wedding between Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The wedding was highly unorthodox, with Prince Charles and Princess Diana being the only couple to have a wedding ceremony in the United Kingdom.

**Low conquerors all**  
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## ROSEBUD COMPLAINT

## SC stops DOJ probe of Ping kidnap raps

By Philip C. Tibara

THE SUPREME COURT yesterday upheld a Manila court order that stopped the Department of Justice from pressing the kidnapping and murder charges filed against Sen. Paolo Lason and his co-accused, saying the case came first earlier been filed before the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a 19-page decision, the high court granted the government petition to nullify an order by the late Manila Judge Hermogenes Ueng stopping the DOJ from conducting a preliminary investigation of Lason, former police Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and several other policemen for the alleged kidnapping of six Chinese nationals and the murder of two of them.

"In allow the same complaint to be filed successively before two or more investigative bodies would promote multiplicity of proceedings, it would also cause undue difficulties to the respondent who would have to appear and defend his position before every agency or body where the same complaint was filed," said the SC decision penned by Justice Abdo Maitin.

The court said allowing a DOJ investigation would entail an "unnecessary expenditure of public funds," and the use of valuable and limited resources of government since it would only duplicate the proceedings already started by the Ombudsman.

"There is (also) the distinct possibility that the two bodies exercising jurisdiction at the same time would come

up with conflicting resolutions regarding the guilt of the respondents," it added.

The case stemmed from the complaint of controversial police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, who accused Lason and his men of kidnapping Chinese nationals Xing Jia Xian, Xiang Chen Qilin, Xing Kang Peng, James Wang, Wang Xian Chong and Chong Shi Ming.

Ong claimed that Wang and Chong were later executed.

Ong initially filed the complaint before the Ombudsman on Jan. 9, 2007. However, Ong and other witnesses executed sworn statements before the National Bureau of Investigation on March 9, 2007, on the same case.

The NBI recommended that the DOJ

investigate Lason and his men, who were apprehended on May 7, 2007. However, the respondents were able to secure a writ of preliminary injunction from Ueng on June 21, 2007.

In his decision, the Supreme Court said that the government failed to prove that Ueng abused his authority when he issued the injunction stopping the DOJ investigation.

"From all the foregoing, it is clear that petitioners have not shown any grave abuse of discretion tantamount to lack of exercise of jurisdiction committed by respondent judge," the tribunal said.

The court said that since the complaint was initially filed with the Ombudsman, it has the authority to proceed with the preliminary investigation to the exclusion of the DOJ.





































**BALLOON FEAST**  
Chari Air-Bass capsules in colors to beat air pollution are brought into the former US air force base in an annual festival that seeks to promote tourism not only to Clark but also to other destinations in Central Luzon.

# East Samar governor says mining welcome, but ecology priority

**By Joy A. Gabilan**  
*PH/Visayas Bureau*

**YACALAN CITY**—Governor Jesus G. Bina Ibarra called for "responsible mining" in the wake of the recent story of big time mining here in Samar Island.

Environmental concerns, like over the opening up of the mining industry to investors says Ibarra balance must be reached between generating income with that of preserving the environment.

Ibarra said that while there was no doubt that the mining industry would "benefit" the country, to include his province, Ibarra, however, the possibility of the destruction of the environment was "not certain."

"I am not against mining per se, I am for responsible mining," Ibarra said.

Ibarra said that one of the country's richest provinces in terms of natural resources, the province remains to be one of the country's most developed regions.

Based on the data of the Mining and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Samar Island has a rich deposit of basalt, chromite, copper, gold, silver and others.

Basalt, commonly used as a construction material, has a wide range of commercial uses. Limestone, strong, heavy blocks, stone (granite and gneiss), ball, drilled are made of basalt. These materials are used for transportation, such as bridges, streets, and airport runways...also use large amounts of basalt, chromite, on the other hand, has a wide range of industrial uses, mainly in a refractory component in the design of blast furnaces.

The opening of the country's mining industry was given a stamp of approval by the Supreme Court when it upheld the legality of the Mining Act of 1990.

"We will be righter, I will see compromise any degradation of the environment in the name of economic progress," said Ibarra.

## ROUNDUP

### Wheelchairs in Mindanao

**PH/INQ** The International Development Organization (IDO) is providing assistance to the Philippines to help the country improve its accessibility for people with disabilities. The IDO is providing assistance to the Philippines to help the country improve its accessibility for people with disabilities. The IDO is providing assistance to the Philippines to help the country improve its accessibility for people with disabilities.

### Law books donated

**MANILA** The Philippine Judicial Academy (PJA) has donated a collection of law books to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to help the country improve its accessibility for people with disabilities. The IDO is providing assistance to the Philippines to help the country improve its accessibility for people with disabilities.

### "Tipton" in Tagaytay

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### Smuggling foiled

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### Bus loses brakes, hurts 47

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### Denr office in Visaya

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## ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

# Suspect in judge's killing out on bail

**POLOK** In Zamboanga City, a suspect in the killing of a prominent judge was out on bail. The suspect, a 47-year-old man, was charged with the murder of Judge Antonio B. Banaag Jr. on January 10, 2005. The judge was shot while driving in his car. The suspect was arrested on January 11, 2005, and was charged with the murder of Judge Banaag Jr. The suspect was out on bail on January 12, 2005.

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## 10 robbery gang suspects fall as police foil bank heist

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO**—Police foiled a robbery on a bus in San Fernando City on Monday after they arrested 10 suspects reportedly belonging to a robbery gang operating in Metro Manila.

The suspects, who were arrested on Monday, were charged with the robbery of a bus carrying passengers. The bus was stopped on a highway near San Fernando City. The suspects were arrested on Monday, and were charged with the robbery of the bus.

## 'Areglo' works for NGOs in putting stop to Pangasinan illegal fishing

**By Yolanda Soriano-Perez**  
*PH/Manila Bureau*

**LAGAYAN, Pangasinan**—The area around the town of Lagan, Pangasinan, is a hotbed of illegal fishing. The area is a popular fishing ground for many people, and is a source of income for many of the residents. The area is a source of income for many of the residents. The area is a source of income for many of the residents.



**COOL TRADE**  
A vendor sells his ice cream near the shrine of the Pangasinan Cross in Lagan, Pangasinan.



















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Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Narisma

# BUSINESS

Text on your backback: inquirer for newspaper coverage in 1,000 (000) in 40 (000)

## BSP expects surge in 'hot money' inflow

By Gerv C. Duran

2007 inflow of "hot money" or foreign portfolio investments may surge this year to nearly \$2 billion from the steady \$651 million in 2003 due to a more bullish investor sentiment, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projected.

BSP Governor Balint Sananay said the Philippines was steadily getting a bigger share of foreign investments going to Asia, but noted that the country would have to prove its commitment to fiscal reforms to attract such investment inflow.

"It would really be there once if all reforms will push through," Sananay said.

And if foreign inflow remains strong, he (BSP's) can have to become more the sufficient

national institutions, including the International Monetary Fund.

"The prognosis is improving no change for the better, although the danger is if we fail to meet expectations," Sananay said.

He said investors were closely monitoring whether the government would be able to ease the 196-billion additional annual tax revenue.

Sananay said the BSP's optimistic outlook on portfolio investment this year was based on recent favorable indicators.

He noted that net portfolio inflow to the Philippines for 2010 was the first three months of recovery since 2007, particularly in comparison to the \$12.9 million cumulative net in-

flow for the comparable period in 2009 and the \$406.4 million figure for the whole of 2009.

The BSP chief said fresh initial public offerings in the stock market planned by very good Philippine companies—such as GMA Network, Inc., M Investments and Shaw Philippines—would also further attract foreign funds to the stock market.

The strong inflow has in turn lifted the peso to the 14-level against the US dollar.

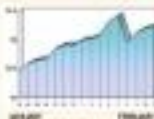
Recently, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has also surged to five-year highs.

Due to the resurgence of portfolio inflow, Sananay said the BSP's gross international reserves

### FINANCIAL

#### CURRENCIES

##### PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱86.77 = \$1  
Jan 1, 2004 - Feb 1, 2010

₱100.46 = \$1  
Jan 1, 2009 - Feb 1, 2010

₱90.45 = \$1  
Jan 1, 2010 - Feb 1, 2011

#### STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly higher

3,640 prices closed 0.81 per cent higher on a strong support for stocks with strong profit-taking, putting the market in a bullish year high status.

However, lack of profit taking limited the gains, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 13.33 points to 2,087.40 after trading between 2,050.21 and 2,098.40. Below was the last trade price Jan. 21, 2009, when the market closed at 2,062.04.

Corporation was 1,000 shares worth ₱1.9 billion.

The broader all shares index rose 18.37 points to 1,780.24.

Dow Jones last closed 77.33, with 42 stocks unchanged.

##### PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See market report on Page B1)

## Gov't seen raising \$1.6B from sale of SMC stake

By Ronald M. Domingo

MANACORP is studying how to go ahead selling a 41 percent stake of shares in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., which is expected to fetch more than \$1.6 billion, according to Finance Secretary Cesar V. Maza and president.

The block of shares to be sold is 27 percent held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the 14 percent combined share of the International Service Insurance Agency and the Social Security System.

Parasitic, who would have been current post to make necessary by

Shaw, said President Managala Amors had ordered him to sell all government shares in SMC after announcing the plan during a talk with media in Quezon province during the weekend.

"It would be one of my priorities as the new finance secretary," he said. "I will be working closely with [presidential legal adviser] Marlene de Guzman to bring the issue back to the administration."

"There is no timetable yet for the project," he added. "We want to do a thorough study to find there will be no legal standing blocks when it comes to the sale."

Parasitic also said the govern-

ment would like a financial adviser for the project.

Asked whether the government had a target amount to raise, Parasitic declined to give a figure, saying the share would be sold by public bidding and that the pricing would depend on the market.

The official said the sale of the government share on SMC, which currently has a market capitalization of \$1 billion, would be paid for by the company as it would use the money for its ongoing expansion.

The sale would certainly attract foreign buyers considering the market involved, Parasitic said.

According to a Manila-based

analyst, the company's total assets in Malayan countries, last November, were \$1.6 billion, which would be sold "to further boost the government's income" in the country.

The announcement comes in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling that declared the current law on public funds.

In a decision dated Nov. 19, 2009, the court said that the government's total assets in 2009 were 10 percent higher than the previous year's disbursement.

The conglomerate's total assets were \$1.6 billion in 2009, while operating income rose more than 20 percent



# Banks' bad property loans down to 20% in Sept. '04

By Scott C. Dunfee

THE DELINQUENCY rate on loans of Philippine banks came to 30.4 percent in the last quarter of 2004 from 26 percent just the previous year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported recently.

The improved performance of their real estate portfolio in part had increased banks' appetite to allow loans to this volatile sector, the BSP said.

Thanks in essence to real estate—in terms of loans and in-

creases—recorded at mid-September by 6.5 percent to P167.7 billion from the previous year.

Of the banks' total real estate exposures, about 90.7 percent or P154.1 billion consisted of direct loans, while 6.3 percent or P11.6 billion consisted of investments in commercial papers and in securities of real estate companies.

The mid-September total real estate loans stood 4.6 percent higher than the previous year's P159.4 billion, but it was 9.5 percent lower than the previous quarter's

P165.8 billion.

Compared to the previous quarter, the total real estate exposures of local banks rose 9.5 percent lower, while the rates of pure direct real estate loans barely slipped from 30.3 percent at mid-June.

Of the loans extended by banks in the property sector, 96.7 percent was for the bank portfolio, while the trust departments kept a 3.3 percent share.

The majority of real estate loans amounting to P131.5 billion (82.3 percent) was extended

for the construction and development of real estate properties for commercial purposes including infrastructure projects, while the remaining 17.7 percent or P24.2 billion was paid for the acquisition of residential units by individual homebuyers, business,

investments in commercial papers and other securities grew from the previous quarter by 2.8 percent to P18.6 billion, and by a hefty 41.8 percent from the previous year.

According to the BSP, investors

are now becoming more bullish on the property sector. Property firms confirmed this when they reported improved sales output.

The insurance, investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston had observed that although home loans in the Philippines remain strong, the market is still waiting to pick up its property sector.

In an earlier report, CSFB said part of the strong sector is overseas foreign working professionals negotiating increased in housing.

"We expect these dynamics to continue in 2005, further fueling the pickup in loan to middle real

estate property where supply-demand remains emerging and pushing aggregate prices up," CSFB said.

In 2004, overseas buyers, a majority of whom are Filipino professionals working abroad, accounted for 26 to 28 percent of residential sales in Metro Manila.

CSFB's favorable outlook on the property sector was anchored on a long-term macro-environment.

The bank projected that the benchmark 41.4-42 Treasury bill rate would rise by only 40 basis points this year.

## Japanese firms urge government to maintain IPPs' VAT exemptions

By Atsushi H.

THE JAPANESE Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc. (JCCCI) has urged the government to keep the value-added tax (VAT) exemption of independent power producers to ensure the longevity of its investments in the generation sector.

Just before visiting Trade Secretary and Power Secretary Desoguer Cordero, JCCCI president Shiroki Kawaguchi outlined strategies should be maintained, particularly the 0% de facto power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the National Power Corp.

"The zero-rated 0% rates of independent power producers that have been in place for years, and which require must be maintained, in view of the country's economy in the critical infrastructure development," he said.

"We believe that the government should honor its commitment to as-

surement with the PPA, as an incentive to drive more foreign investment in the power industry," he added.

In light of the government's efforts to build facilities, new tax incentives are being put in place. These include not only the imposition of zero rates, but also the removal of tax exemptions that remain costly currently.

Cordero has identified the power sector as one of the industries that will be critical to the zero-VAT list.

While JCCCI supported the government's efforts to reform the VAT system, Kawaguchi cautioned against the removal of the exemption of 0%. Some industry sectors argue themselves for exemption on VAT. At the same time, JCCCI members in the power industry said the imposition of VAT on IPPs would ultimately threaten the convenience of the power sector.

"A 12 percent VAT on IPPs will be

an immediate burden, and in some cases it is a 7 percent to 10 percent of better tax incentives," Agustin said in a statement.

Instead of focusing on changing rates on the power generation sector, he said Cordero should put efforts on ensuring Republic Act No. 9183, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA).

He said the law was flawed in its use of the term and did not provide enough protection to consumers.

"The EPIRA ensures that IPPs keep their profits, and consumers pay for their VAT increases. Instead of focusing on improving the measures such as VAT exemption should put a law expanding the EPIRA and building a national power industry to protect consumers and promote growth in dependent economic growth," he said.

Continued B1

located in the EPIRA.

In terms of securing the biggest beneficiaries of foreign portfolio in power—state-owned power companies and local deposits—were expected engaged in manufacturing, telecommunications, financial services and real estate.

## Egg producers plan venture into egg processing facility

By Christine A. Gaydon

THE NATIONAL Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines (NFEP) is now in talks with prospective foreign investors to join up the country's first egg processing facility, that will cost around P100 million.

NFEP chair Leopoldo Ben Dingo II said the group was looking at proposals from Belgium, Brazil, Iran and Canadian corporations for a joint venture.

The proposed facility will produce processed egg, among others, which had food and manufacturing firms prefer for their operations.

Processed egg, for instance, is used in the manufacturing of margarine and in fast foods.

Manufacture in protein processed egg is its easy with the problem of disposing the egg shells.

"We are carefully assessing their proposals and hopefully we will plan through this year," Ben Dingo said.

The NFEP will also appoint a representative that will directly manage the egg processing facility.

The NFEP is composed of backyard and commercial egg producers such as the Bantay Poultry and Laidlaw Inc.

The group plans to build the facility in the Bantay Industrial Park.

Another option for the egg facility is the state-run Laidlaw Development Center,

an liquid egg processing requires some degree of automation.

He said that local egg producers needed to shift into value-added services as food consumption of fresh eggs has been declining.

Ben Dingo noted that both Philippines and CMC, one of the biggest standards in the U.S., have stopped buying local eggs locally.



CONSUMPTION OF fresh eggs has been on the decline.





pop culture • entertainment • recreation

# How to date a male model

(And still  
keep your  
self-esteem  
intact)

**I**N THE smoky, orange-tinted haze of the dance floor one night, a guy grabbed my hand and I panicked in sheer terror.

Not because he resembled a sinister movie villain, or that he wore a suit and gold-plated bling bling over his chest hair that looked like a giant antenna. Rather, you know what looked

—JESSICA K. KATZ

**OUT THE WINDOW**

*Tina Diaz*



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## Super

## Who would Jesus date?

Good question. If Valentine's Day is all about love and Jesus is all about love, shouldn't Valentine's Day be all about Jesus?



**N**OT SO long ago, like, in early 2004, Jesus Christ led an extremely low-key—almost boring—eccentric life. He'd get up in the morning, knock back an overpriced Starbucks soy latte, and drive to work in a swanky leased 1991 Nissan Sentra. The economy hadn't picked up post-9/11 and it wasn't kind even to experienced miracle

**Age against the machine**



**Geno de la Foz**

workers like him. Hey kids, it's time for a parade!

Like any struggling, day-jobs daydreaming in California, Jesus drove and subsisted a bit. And just like Jay Williams in "French," the

bad-ass spirit but not a very good one, Jesus was denied entry to some pretty elite film circles because there wasn't a huge demand for actors with this streak—a mid-acting, somewhat speaking bible-thumper who calls himself The One. (Jesus "Super Man" Jesus had already bagged the lead in "The Matrix" years before. Rum.)

To date, the increasingly tired out-to-play a little who scored a part (even in Jesus Regal, an absolute bore of a hidden camera show) went to Nelson Baker, a celebratory

—CHRISTOPHER YOUNG



Happy Valentine's days.

One day for your friends. One for your family. One for your trick treaters. And one cake to make each day special. With all these Goldblond® Valentine Treats, signifying missing any Valentine's days vinyl!





# Who would Jesus date?

From page C1

gone-wild (went to Nicole Ritchie) and a kid who saw dead people (Jesus really could, no doubt, but He didn't pass for an 11-year-old even with makeup—part went to Haley Joel Osment). This series of rejections could've messed up our Messiah but thank God (well, so to speak), it didn't. Yay!

Instead of turning to prescription drugs or parting the Red Sea to relieve His anxiety, Jesus Christ spent His days answering prayers. The bulk of which, at the time, were video requests for Usher's comeback single "Yeah." (Somehow mail for MTV's TRL wound up in His inbox. Moving on...)

Taking His mind off the scriptures long enough to think of a plan, Jesus considered taking His act to Vegas to give garden-variety magicians Siegfried and Roy some real competition. When that bottomed out, though, He enlisted the help of Yahweh but that merely resulted in a stint at a call center. (It would've been cool except Christ kept answering "Hi, this is Jesus speaking. How can I save you today?") That freaked callers out.)

Bogged down with self-doubt, Jesus went through the motions of having a job as opposed to actually having one. He's turned the other cheek countless times already so what will He tell the guys at the next high school reunion? That He's still living miracle-to-miracle? All that changed when Jesus Christ met Mel Gibson.

## From Profound Loner to Ultimate Pinup

Jesus Christ was on His way home from bartending a Vanity Fair Young Hollywood after-party (Water-into-Merlot for everyone!) when the star of "Braveheart" and "Lethal Weapon" handed Him a script for a by-the-book movie adaptation of His life. Entitled "The J.C.," the brick-thick screenplay was about Jesus' years as a brooding, tank-top-wearing teenage rebel. In fact, "The J.C." traced His roots from China to His new life with the pseudo-Jewish Cohen family in Orange County. (The film treatment included a star-crossed encounter with a certain Marissa Cooper, who was supposed to be played by ex-90210 Shannen Doherty.) Hmmm. It sound-

ed eerily like something Jesus had already seen on Fox so He sat Mel down for an on-the-spot anointing, commanding him to do a rewrite. "Bad-uh-ing badaboom!" "The Passion of The Christ" instantly came to light.

Being the Son of God, Jesus Christ was extremely professional. Production of "The Passion" was fast-tracked, wrapping up after a record three and a half minutes. Despite an unplayable part and a dialogue entirely in Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin, Jesus Christ totally nailed it. (Sorry for the pun. Oops.) Briefly swapping His halo for a trucker cap, Jesus then went through the final edit with Mel, declared it "The greatest story ever told," and immediately gave it the green light.

In the run up to "The Passion's" release, however, a few smartypants said the movie was too gory and anti-Semitic. That prompted a blood-thirsty public to watch it even more. (Mel's bank account thanks you!) Earning more than half a billion dollars in box office returns, "The Passion of The Christ" became the toast of the evangelical indie scene because of its covert ninja-style break-in into the movie-making mainstream. Suddenly, Mel Gibson was forgiven for "What Women Want" and Jesus Christ became a dreamy Superstar, worth another 2000 years of Bible studies and His very own "El True Hollywood Story."

"The Passion of The Christ" was engineered to be Jesus' solo bungee jump into the public eye, a one-time dive followed by a bounce back into anonymity. But the world, unexpectedly gripped by religious fervor, accorded Jesus a fair amount of respect and considered Him their new Homeboy. Hosanna to the highest, y'all.

## Eucharistic celebration

As the "It" Son of Man, Jesus became hot tickler and offers to play the next James Bond, Superman and Batman soon came flying His way. Likewise, endorsements for the South Beach Diet, ("Man does not live on bread alone"), merchandising (Tickle Me Jesus), a thriving magazine (Jesus Christ Living) and a makeover show ("The Jesus Eye for the Sinful Guy") ensured His development as an

ecumenical brand. On the side, Jesus also partnered up with a longstanding enemy to build a fitness empire called Pontius Pilates.

With Jesus' newfound fame and eternal glory, the paparazzi were all over Him. Jesus seen with the Obenwits at Eucharistic celebration! (Anorexia sold separately.) Jesus performs plastic surgery with bare hands! (A passage of note for "Nip/Tuck" devotees.) Jesus calls Madonna "Mother?" (Did I just use a metaphor?)

Of course, in between dying yearly and coming back to life in the spring, Jesus never forgot to answer His fan mail. The majority of which, by now, were requests for Brad and Jen to reunite for the sake of perfect babies and/or so the world could turn again. At the same time (among prayer requests to save little Jamie-Lynn Spears from the limited critical faculties of older sister Britney) Jesus received various Friendster invites and, most important, questions regarding His romantic life. Ah, to be a Bachelor Almighty.

## Jesus loves you

As if I haven't angered enough conservative people with what I have written thus far, the following might even get me into more trouble. Sorry to circle back to this but really, the power of love (and parody) compels me to continue even if it seems like I'm making a trend out of something the world takes really seriously.

Based on its inherent message, Christmas is to Jesus as Valentine's Day is to...Jesus. Or at least it should be. Forget the fact that Theology has taught us about virgins who get pregnant through birds or that Hallmark has turned Easter into a day to glaze glitter on hard-boiled eggs and hide them to confuse children. It's the weekend before Valentine's, people, so let's talk about love. More specifically, Jesus' love, which is really about second chances if you think about it. Awww.

So focusing our attention and matchmaking abilities on the world of entertainment, can Jesus Christ's divine intervention lead to a career renewal for these wayward personalities? Now that He's a megawatt Hollywood celebrity, who would Jesus eliminate from the pop culture dating pool?

**The Bachelor Almighty**

- Paris Hilton**  
 Faith-based fact: Like the Gospels, she is loopy  
 May go to hell for: Impeding "music" career  
 V-day penance: Must wear cubic zirconia, fake Dior
- AteVi**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Jesus Christ, well sort of, she's a Star for all Seasons  
 May go to hell for: Campy rendition of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"  
 V-day penance: Must listen to campy rendition of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" with son Luis
- Tara Reid**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Mary Magdalene, she comes off as a complete whore  
 May go to hell for: Coming off as a complete whore  
 V-day penance: Must date SpongeBob Squarepants
- Mahal**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Alf, she is an alien life form  
 May go to hell for: her alleged sex video  
 V-day penance: Must run with bulls in Pamplona, Spain
- SpongeBob SquarePants**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Tinky Winky, the purple Teletubbie, he has come under the critical spotlight of the US Christian right  
 May go to hell for: Being popular with gay people  
 V-day penance: Must date Kris Aquino
- Mystica**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Good Friday, her sense of style is depressing  
 May go to hell for: Awful fashion sense, "combrovokes" she created herself  
 V-day penance: Must not wear make-up/fake nails/colored contacts and not guest on any show biz talk show
- Martha Stewart**  
 Faith-based fact: Like Jesus' father Joseph, she builds her own furniture  
 May go to hell for: cooking demo at 7 p.m.  
 V-day penance: Must finally reveal that she is Lucifer with, like, tits
- Kris Aquino**  
 Faith-based fact: Like her mother Cory Aquino, she is a devout Catholic  
 May go to hell for: "Pido Dida," among others  
 V-day penance: Must join Angelica Jones in Channel 13 and then shut up

See, it's not really a matter of whom Jesus would date but who would date Jesus. Who cares if you're dateloss on this day of hearts? Console yourself with the fact that—Warning: Hyperbolic religious commentary coming—you aren't alone and, in truth, have the ultimate companion...in Jesus Christ...who loves

everyone anyway! Isn't it time to put the "Christ" back in Valentine's? Or put it since it's not there to begin with? And isn't it time for your heads to explode with all this complex analysis? If there are no further questions, this concludes your regular Saturday enlightenment session. Amen.



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# Kapamilya strikes back?

Super! takes a glimpse at ABS-CBN's new shows

By Pepe Diokno  
and James Sison

ABS-CBN's choices range from inspired to Willy Wonka Boreo. (Think, mean thing.) Now, we want to say this is a change for the best. So, we join the ABS-CBN complex, but not if it isn't.



Then here is our show—at least it has concepts. Don't they know that producing video and not just giving them higher

ratings? It's time for soul-searching, Kapamilya. What do you think's really the problem with your network? It may be just

indifferent people, not giving it a shot of their precious new shows. Don't underestimate the power of the laughs are temporary.

Boreo

"Boreo" is supposed to be a comedy about The Boreo. Boreo seems already a show it is supposed to be set in "Boreo" ... yes, but it's already just a set in ABS-CBN.

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# The perfect toothpaste kiss

50 1/2 Tips to V-day Bliss

By Pops DiLorenzo  
Photos courtesy of Clear-It

Lovepalooza happens today at Valentine's parties nationwide!



**L**IT UP, you're the couple! I don't know if it's the first place, but it's up in the atmosphere today at Valentine's parties nationwide! Lovepalooza happens today at Valentine's parties nationwide!

1. The problem is, you might not know what a tip is in the first place. Look it up in the dictionary—no fun.

2. The best tip is to be a tip.

3. The best tip is to be a tip.

4. The best tip is to be a tip.

5. The best tip is to be a tip.

6. The best tip is to be a tip.

7. The best tip is to be a tip.

8. The best tip is to be a tip.

9. The best tip is to be a tip.

10. The best tip is to be a tip.

**Tips 11-18. What to kiss.**

11. The best tip is to be a tip.

12. The best tip is to be a tip.

13. The best tip is to be a tip.

14. The best tip is to be a tip.

15. The best tip is to be a tip.

16. The best tip is to be a tip.

17. The best tip is to be a tip.

18. The best tip is to be a tip.

**Tips 19-27. Why to kiss.**

19. The best tip is to be a tip.

20. The best tip is to be a tip.

21. The best tip is to be a tip.

22. The best tip is to be a tip.

23. The best tip is to be a tip.

24. The best tip is to be a tip.

25. The best tip is to be a tip.

26. The best tip is to be a tip.

27. The best tip is to be a tip.



**Tips 28-38. Where to kiss.**

28. The best tip is to be a tip.

29. The best tip is to be a tip.

30. The best tip is to be a tip.

31. The best tip is to be a tip.

32. The best tip is to be a tip.

33. The best tip is to be a tip.

34. The best tip is to be a tip.

35. The best tip is to be a tip.

36. The best tip is to be a tip.

37. The best tip is to be a tip.

38. The best tip is to be a tip.

**Tips 39-47. Why to kiss.**

39. The best tip is to be a tip.

40. The best tip is to be a tip.

41. The best tip is to be a tip.

42. The best tip is to be a tip.

43. The best tip is to be a tip.

44. The best tip is to be a tip.

45. The best tip is to be a tip.

46. The best tip is to be a tip.

47. The best tip is to be a tip.

**Tips 48-50. How to kiss.**

48. The best tip is to be a tip.

49. The best tip is to be a tip.

50. The best tip is to be a tip.

